SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 20 Week ending Friday, June 17, 2011

The SBAC Weekly Update is an email sent each Friday to keep Consortium members and collaborators informed of new developments and upcoming events. The Update is widely distributed to Consortium State Leads, Work Group members, Consortium and WestEd staff, and Consortium advisors, partners, and service providers.

State members should feel free to share information in the Update with those interested in the Consortium's work.

Embedded links in the Update sometimes direct you to the website, http://smarter.k12partners.org/, designed for use by Consortium members. If you are a state employee in a Consortium state and need access to material on this website, please click the "Create new account" link on the website to register. If you are not a state employee in a Consortium state and need material from this site, please ask your state lead to forward it to you.

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From the Executive Director

Greetings. I'm reminded of the old saying: the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. In our case, that one big step—the creation of a draft Summative Assessment Work Plan—involved the dedication of our 10 work groups and hundreds of hours of work by our Project Management Partner, WestEd. This week, we held webinars to review the work plan with Governing and Advisory States, as well as vendors. And on Wednesday, we delivered the draft to the U.S. Department of Education. (See the "Resources" section below for a link to the Master Work Plan.)

This plan includes the major areas of work and activities for developing the summative assessment. It lays out the road map for issuing our RFPs and sets the stage for our work plans for the other components of the assessment system—including the interim assessments, formative processes and tools, and professional development to help in the transition to Common Core.

Releasing a draft document for review is not without its drawbacks. But we believe it's the only way we can build a shared understanding of our timeline and approach to delivering a fully functional assessment system by the 2014-2015 school year. So we have encouraged our member states, our work groups, and our colleagues from the vendor community to

raise questions, poke holes, and challenge assumptions. We look forward to incorporating this valuable feedback into our plan.

As we move forward with assessment development, we continue to reach out and engage partners. Over the next few weeks, we have the opportunity to present to critical audiences, including the southern regional meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Council of Great City Schools, and the American Federation of Teachers.

In addition, the Consortium will make a strong showing at CCSSO's 2011 National Conference on Student Assessment (NCSA) next week in Orlando, Florida. Many members of the Executive Committee and our Governing States will be attending or presenting at the conference. This issue of the Weekly Update includes a listing of Consortium-related sessions at this year's NCSA. As you can see from the sessions listed in the "Upcoming Events" section below, it's an impressive list. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Consortium members for representing SMARTER Balanced and for their leadership in the field.

See you in the Sunshine State! JW

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Announcements

No new announcements this week.

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Upcoming Events

NCSA Presentations—Many Consortium members have sessions at next week's National Conference on Student Assessment in Orlando. Here's a listing of sessions related to our work that include presentations from SMARTER Balanced individuals.

- Jim Wright, "Innovative Opportunities and Measurement Challenges In Through-Course Summative Assessments"
- Joe Willhoft, "Test Security"
- Lou Fabrizio and Jessica Vavrus, "Bridging the Gap: Transitioning Your Assessment Program to the Common Core"
- Joe Willhoft, Joseph Martineau, and Tom Luna, "Implementing Common Core State Standards Consortia Assessments"
- Wendy Carver, "Designing Tasks of Math and ELA for AA-AAS Synergistically Using Evidence Centered Design and UDL"
- Joe Willhoft, Joan Herman, and Brian Gong, "Revision of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing: Implications for Policy and Research Practice"
- Nikki Elliott-Schuman, "Testing What Matters: An Exploration of the Development and Implementation of Current, Upcoming, and Future Performance Assessment Models"

- Max Xu and Liru Zhang, "Screening Linking Items and Examinees In Paper-and-Pencil and Computerized Tests for Reliable, Valid, and Unbiased Equating Results"
- Vince Dean, "Implementing Initiatives Pursuing the CCSSO's Definition of Formative Assessment"
- Tom Foster, "Innovative Assessments of College and Career Readiness"
- Tom Foster, "Assessment Methodologies Used to Personalize Instruction for Diverse Learners: Evidence of Effectiveness"
- Lou Fabrizio and James Popham, "Stretching NAEP—But In Which Directions?"
- Lou Fabrizio, "Developing and Expanding State Data Systems"
- Wendy Carver and Deborah Matthews, "Accessibility for Students Taking Assessment Consortia Tests"
- Tony Alpert, "Evaluating the Technical Quality of Computerized Adaptive Tests"
- Gay Pickner, "Innovative Approaches to Statewide Writing Assessments"
- Gaye Fedorchak and Martha Thurlow, "Increasing Accessibility to Assessments Through Computer-Based Tools"

Advisory States meeting—A reminder that the next Advisory States meeting occurs on July 11. It has been moved to accommodate the Independence Day holiday on July 4.

Master Work Plan review meetings—Governing State leads are invited to attend the Master Work Plan review meetings in Denver July 21–22. See separate email for details.

All States dinner during ICCS SCASS—SMARTER Balanced invites all SBAC state participants attending the ICCS SCASS meeting to join leadership for dinner at 6 P.M. on August 3. Please RSVP for the dinner when you register for the meeting using the CCSSO registration process.

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Resources

Master Work Plan—Draft versions of the Master Work Plan for the summative assessment are now available at http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/master-work-plan and at http://k12.wa.us/SMARTER/RTTTApplication.aspx

SMARTER Balanced logo files—A reminder that you can find PNG and JPG versions of the official SMARTER Balanced logo at http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/communications.

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Archive

Previous SBAC Weekly Updates are available at http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/sbac-weekly-update-archive.

Minutes from previously held meetings are available at http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/agendas-and-minutes.

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